

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/581,971

Examiner

Jeffrey Donels

Applicant(s)

HIRANO, TETSUYA

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060607
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 1 and 2 are considered allowable over the prior art as the closest prior art, Ichiki and Kaneko do not teach the combination of address-switching output means for performing switching between a first address indicated by an upper data of the accumulator and a second address stored in the address memory for a second sound source and outputting a selected one of the addresses in response to a mode switching signal from the mode switching means and an access timing, the address-switching output means outputting the first address and a consecutive address in the mode to use a solo sound source, the consecutive address being processed to precede or follow the first address by the upper-address processing section; waveform data register for storing a waveform data read out from the waveform memory based on an output address; sample buffer wherein waveform data, which have been read out at the previous access timing and have been stored in the waveform data register, are stored by (an interpolation point number - 1); interpolation coefficient memory for storing interpolation coefficient data; interpolation coefficient extracting means for extracting corresponding interpolation coefficients from the interpolation coefficient memory, based on lower data in the accumulator; sample interpolation means, wherein the waveform data, which have been respectively stored in the waveform register and the sample buffer, are subjected to interpolation based on interpolation coefficients extracted by the interpolation coefficient extracting means; and a selection means, wherein the waveform data, which have been respectively stored in the waveform register and the sample buffer and have been input

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into the sample interpolation means, are selected in response to a mode switching signal from the mode switching section and an address value indicated by the upper data of the accumulator.

Regarding Claims 3 and 4, Ichiki and Kaneko do not teach a master sound source that operates so that a master address, which has been obtained by operation, is output to the waveform memory in the former half of the operation time for one channel, and that a slave address, which has been transmitted from the transmitting means of the slave sound source and has been received by the receiving means of the master sound source, is output to the waveform memory in the latter half of the operation time for the one channel, and the master sound source also operates so that a waveform data for the slave sound source, which has received from the waveform memory, is supplied to the transmitting means of the master sound source and is transmitted to the receiving means of the slave sound source in the latter half of the operation time for the one channel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

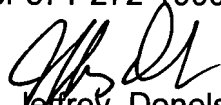
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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ogai et al, Ichiki, Usami et al, and Kaneko are further cited to show related teachings in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Donels whose telephone number is 571-272-2061. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lincoln Donovan can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 37. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jeffrey Donels
Primary Examiner
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